IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 12, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Memory 504 of administrative machine 306 includes the SASD process 540, VARPD 548, and KMS 550 all running in user mode. That is CPU 512 is capable of running in at least two modes: user mode and kernel mode. When CPU 512 executes programs running in user mode, it prevents them from directly manipulating the hardware components, such as video display 518. On the other hand, when CPU 512 executes programs running in kernel mode, it allows them to manipulate the hardware components. Memory 504 also contains a VARPDB [[551]] and a TCP/IP protocol stack 552 that are executed by CPU 512 running in kernel mode. TCP/IP protocol stack 552 contains a TCP/UDP layer 554 and an IP layer 556, both of which are standard layers well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Secondary storage 508 contains a configuration file 558 that stores various configuration-related information (described below) for use by SASD 540.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 13, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

SASD 540 represents a Supernet: there is one instance of an SASD per Supernet, and it both authenticates nodes and authorizes nodes to join the Supernet. VARPD 548 has an associated component, VARPDB [[551]], into which it stores mappings of the internal Supernet addresses, known as a node IDs, to the network

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addresses recognized by the public-network infrastructure, known as the real

addresses. The "node ID" may include the following: a Supernet ID (e.g., 0x123),

reflecting a unique identifier of the Supernet, and a virtual address, comprising an IP

address (e.g., 10.0.0.1). The "real address" is an IP address (e.g., 10.0.0.2) that is

globally unique and meaningful to the public-network infrastructure. In a Supernet, one

VARPD runs on each machine, and it may play two roles. First, a VARPD may act as a

server by storing all address mappings for a particular Supernet into its associated

VARPDB. Second, regardless of its role as a server or not, each VARPD assists in

address translation for the nodes on its machine. In this role, the VARPD stores into its

associated VARPDB the addres mappings for its nodes, and if it needs a mapping that

it does not have, it will contact the VARPD that acts as the server for the given supernet

to obtain it.